

these illegally created accounts, or they are denied credit because of unpaid debts accrued by identity thieves.

While vigorous law enforcement is vital to preventing the misuse of personal information, consumer education is the first line of defense against this kind of fraud and deception. An educated consumer is a confident consumer; and it is confident consumers who drive the economy of our Nation.

A number of public and private entities are joining forces this year to highlight consumer education efforts throughout the Nation. These efforts will help consumers learn more about securing personal information and privacy issues. The entities involved include the following: the Federal Trade Commission, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, the National Consumers League, the American Association of Retired Persons, the Better Business Bureau, the Consumer Federation of America, the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the National Association of Attorneys General, and the Federal Consumer Information Center. These groups will help consumers understand how information and privacy issues affect their lives and the decisions they make in the marketplace.

During National Consumer Protection Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to safeguard their personal information, recognize fraudulent telemarketers, and identify fraudulent e-mail. Through these measures, individuals can better protect their financial security and ultimately contribute to the long-term strength of our economy.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 3 through 9, 2002, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon Government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide consumers information about the use and misuse of personal information. This will help safeguard the economic future of all Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of

the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 7.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iraq

February 4, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 4, 2002.

Message to the Congress Transmitting an Extension of the China-United States Fisheries Agreement

February 4, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China extending the Agreement of June 24, 1985, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (the "1985 Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes in Beijing on April 6 and July 17, 2001, extends the 1985 Agreement to July 1, 2004.